

W.); 720 fathoms; August 10, 1948. One specimen, without arms.

Notes.—This specimen consists of a root, stem, basals, and radials. The stem is about 105 mm. long with 55 columnals, and the basals are 3 mm. long.

BATHYCRINIDAE

*Bathycrinus aldrichianus* Wyville Thomson

*Bathycrinus aldrichianus* Wyville Thomson, Journ. Linn. Soc. (Zool.) **13**: pp. 47-51, fig. 1. 1876.

*Bathycrinus serratus* A. H. Clark, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. **34**: 205, fig. 1; 306. 1908.

Locality.—Between North Carolina and the Azores (lat. 34° 53' N., long. 46° 24' W.); 2,530 fathoms; September 3, 1948. One stem without the proximal portion, and fragments of another.

Notes.—The larger fragment is about 122 mm. long with 61 columnals, tapering to a diameter of 0.4 mm. at the broken proximal end. The longest columnals, near the broken end, are 1.5 mm. long and about four times as long as broad, and are cylindrical. The other smaller fragments are from a considerably stouter stem.

Prof. Torsten Gislén has suggested to me that my *Bathycrinus serratus* described in 1908 from Albatross station 2226, off Virginia in 2,045 fathoms, and recorded from Albatross station 2713, off Maryland in 1,859 fathoms, is in reality a synonym of Prof. Wyville Thomson's *B. aldrichianus*. With this suggestion I am quite in agreement.

LIST OF THE STATIONS, WITH THE SPECIES FOUND AT EACH

Station 1; south of Nantucket (lat. 40° 50' N., long. 70° 10' W.); 19-20 fathoms; July 16, 1948:

*Echinarachnius parma*

Station 6; east of southern Newfoundland and south of Cape Farewell, Greenland (lat. 47° 08' N., long. 44° 52' W.); 85 fathoms; July 31, 1948:

*Leptychaster arcticus*  
*Hippasteria phrygiana*  
*Poraniomorpha borealis*  
*Henricia sanguinolenta*  
*Pteraster militaris*

*Asterias vulgaris*  
*Ophiopholis aculeata*  
*Ophiura sarsii*  
*Ophiocten sericeum*

Station 8; west of Newfoundland and south of Greenland (lat. 47° 10' N., long. 36° 00' W.); 2,300 fathoms; August 2, 1948:

*Dytaster biserialis*  
*Henricia lisa*  
*Freyella abyssicola*

*Amphiophiura convexa*  
*Ophiura irrorata*

Station 11; north of the Azores (lat. 42° 53' 30" N., long. 29° 05' W.); 720 fathoms; August 10, 1948.

*Ophiactis abyssicola*  
*Ophiura ljunghani*

*Democrinus parfaii*

Station 20; west of San Miguel, Azores (lat. 37° 50' 30" N., long. 26° 00' W.); 1,400 fathoms; August 18, 1948:

*Dytaster mollis*  
*Hydrasterias ophidion*

*Homolampas fragilis*

Station 26; southwest of the Azores (lat. 34° 12' 30" N., long. 30° 12' 30" W.); 570 fathoms; August 26, 1948:

*Ophiacantha abyssicola*

Station 28; southwest of the Azores (lat. 34° 50' N., long. 39° 20' W.); 1,770 fathoms; August 30, 1948:

*Plutonaster notatus*

Station 30; between North Carolina and the Azores (lat. 34° 53' N., long. 46° 24' W.); 2,530 fathoms; September 3, 1948:

*Amphiophiura convexa*  
*Bathycrinus aldrichianus*

Station BT 65; 200 meters:

*Strongylocentrotus dröbachiensis*

ORNITHOLOGY.—A new race of bird of the genus *Spodiornis* from Venezuela.

ALEXANDER WETMORE and WILLIAM H. PHELPS, JR.

The curious avian species *Spodiornis rusticus*, at present placed in the family Fringillidae, is of scattered and erratic distribution in Central and South America from the

mountains of eastern Veracruz in México south to northern Bolivia. In Venezuela it has been known from 10 skins of *Spodiornis rusticus rusticus*, the typical race, collected on Cerro del Avila in the mountain near

<sup>1</sup> Received August 19, 1949.

Caracas. A specimen taken by the junior author on Cerro Chimantá-tepui in the Guayana Highlands of Venezuela, south of the Río Orinoco, has been of especial interest for its extension of the known range to an isolated locality. After careful study we have determined this to represent an unknown form, and present its description.

*Spodiornis rusticus arcanus*, n. subsp.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Spodiornis rusticus rusticus* Tschudi<sup>2</sup> but blacker, more sooty gray above, and darker below.

*Description*.—Type, Phelps Collection no. 36,128-A, male, taken at 1,850 meters elevation near the summit on the western side of Cerro Chimantá-tepui, Estado Bolívar, Venezuela, July 13, 1946, by W. H. Phelps, Jr.; on deposit in the United States National Museum. Above blackish slate, shading to dark neutral gray on the sides of the head and rump; below neutral gray, with a slight amount of dull white in the center of the abdomen, and as edging on the larger under tail coverts; rectrices and remiges slate-black. Iris brown, maxilla black, mandible gray, tarsus brown (in life).

*Measurements*.—Wing 70.8, tail 46.5, culmen from base 12.1 (approximate), tarsus 19.5 mm.

*Range*.—Known only from the type locality near the summit of Cerro Chimantá-tepui, south-eastern Bolívar, Venezuela.

*Remarks*.—The type, the only individual seen, was collected in low bushes near the summit of Chimantá-tepui, which is a table-top mountain of sandstone, with an area of more than 400 square miles, and an elevation of about 2,000 meters, located in the western part of the Gran Sabana region of southeastern Venezuela. The locality where the bird was found is covered with dense, subtropical plant growth, so that it is likely that the main part of the range of the form is found across the summit, where the cover of smaller trees and bushes is more open. No *Spodiornis* has been taken on the 14 other great sandstone mountains where collections have been made to date in the vast Guayana Highlands, between Roraima and Uei-tepui, on the British Guiana border, and Duida and Paraque in the region of the upper Orinoco.

<sup>2</sup> *Phrygilus rusticus* Tschudi, Arch. Naturg. 10 (1): 290. May 1844. (Perú.)

The type specimen is unique but differs so definitely from a fair series of the typical form that there is no hesitance in allocating it a new name. The tip of the maxilla is broken, causing the bill to appear blunt, which serves to change the appearance of the head considerably, as these birds have sharply pointed bills. By chance the tongue has remained in place, its tip, under low magnification, being distinctly brushlike. It seemed at first that the whole tongue was fringed, but careful cleaning revealed that the fimbriate area was confined to the tip instead of continuing down the sides as at first supposed. The sharply pointed rétrices with the inner web cut away at the tip, a character of the genus *Spodiornis*, are peculiar. While placed in the Fringillidae it may be observed that the form of the tail and of the tongue suggest affinities with the Coerebidae, which in fact is the family in which P. L. Selater originally described *Spodiornis*. A further unusual character is the posterior lengthening of the gonyes so that the gonydeal angle is at the level of the posterior margin of the nasal fossae, instead of well anterior to that point as is usual in Fringillidae.

The latest treatment of *Spodiornis*, that of Hellmayr,<sup>3</sup> recognizes three subspecies to which the present description adds a fourth. *Spodiornis rusticus barrilesensis* Davidson, of Costa Rica, and Chiriquí in western Panamá, has a slightly larger bill, and while somewhat darker than *rusticus* is definitely lighter, less sooty gray, than *arcanus*. *S. r. uniformis* from near Jalapa, Veracruz, which has not been available for examination, is described as being larger, but the difference from *barrilesensis* seemingly is slight. According to Ridgway<sup>4</sup> the wing measures 76 mm, whereas Hellmayr gives it as 75 mm.

Material available for comparison (adult males only) has been as follows:

*Spodiornis rusticus rusticus*: ECUADOR: Sumaco Arriba, Quito, below Calacali. COLOMBIA: Cachirí and Buenos Aires, Province of Santander del Norte.

*Spodiornis rusticus barrilesensis*: COSTA RICA: Carrillo and Navarro.

<sup>3</sup> Cat. Birds Amer., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., 13 (pt. 11): 369-371. 1938.

<sup>4</sup> U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50 (pt. 1): 521. 1901.